

From: Joseph Hubbard
Subject: Daily News Digest, Monday, December 30
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Attachments: [Daily News Digest, Monday, December 30.pdf](#)

(See attached file: Daily News Digest, Monday, December 30.pdf)

1 - Gasbuggy was try at nuclear fracking, ABQ Journal, 12/30/13

<http://www.abqjournal.com/328105/news/gasbuggy-was-try-at-nuclear-fracking.html>

Opponents of hydraulic fracturing – fracking – for natural gas might have one thing to be grateful for: Development of that technology may have helped save them from nuclear fracking. It's not a joke, even though it sounds like something you might hear on "Saturday Night Live."

2 - Contaminants detected in El Paso neighborhood soil, San Antonio Express News, 12/29/13

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/texas/article/Contaminants-detected-in-El-Paso-neighborhood-soil-5099942.php>

A report prepared for the trustee in charge of cleaning a former lead and copper smelter property in El Paso shows for the first time unhealthy levels of lead, arsenic and mercury in several soil samples in a canyon-like neighborhood bordering the property. The findings from an environmental engineering consultant remain under review.

3 - In wake of West Fertilizer blast, investigation finds protection systems are broken, Dallas Morning News, 12/28/13

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/investigation/20131228-in-wake-of-west-fertilizer-blast-investigation-finds-protection-systems-are-broken.ece>

The explosion that killed 15 people in West on April 17 has often been described as unforeseeable and unpreventable — virtually an act of God. That view is incorrect, an eight-month investigation by The Dallas Morning News found. The blast and the deaths it caused resulted from a cascade of predicted and preventable failures. The News also found that preventing the next mass industrial death in an American community would be possible. It would require just one fundamental reform: keeping promises made long ago in response to other catastrophes.

4 - Soil in West El Paso neighborhood near former Asarco site contaminate, EL Paso Times, 12/29/13

http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_24810214/contamination-detected-soil-el-pasos-calavera-neighborhood

Unhealthful levels of lead, arsenic and mercury were detected for the first time in several soil samples of the Calavera neighborhood in West El Paso, according to a recent remedial investigation report prepared for the Asarco Custodial Trust.

5 - Power plants, refineries top carbon pollution, San Antonio Express, 12/28/13

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/energy/article/Power-plants-refineries-top-carbon-pollution-5098209.php>

Power plants and refineries continue to rank among the biggest emitters of

greenhouse gas emissions in Washington in 2012, according to the latest data reported to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#).

6 - Editorial: PRC should power up San Juan conversion, ABQ Journal, 12/30/13
<http://www.abqjournal.com/328237/opinion/prc-should-power-up-san-juan-conversion.html>

The Environmental It's a win-win-win situation for environmentalists, Four Corners residents and New Mexico's electricity ratepayers: a conversion plan that cuts coal-fired electricity in half, upgrades pollution controls to not only make the air nicer to look at but safer to breathe, and all at a fraction of the original bureaucratically mandated cost.

7 - [AP] Recycled Christmas trees: mulch, dunes, habitats, Odessa Adversity, 12/29/13
http://www.oaoa.com/people/lifestyle/article_f8e9aeac-6f7c-11e3-b3a1-001a4bcf6878.html

It's one of America's great recycling success stories: Every year, hundreds of thousands of discarded Christmas trees are collected and reused. Many are picked up curbside by local garbage collection services and turned into mulch. But there are other second acts for Christmas trees, too.

8 - 'Superbugs' found breeding in sewage plants, Fort Bend News, 12/30/13
http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/fort_bend/news/superbugs-found-breeding-in-sewage-plants/article_35f4ad30-9a2c-51fb-bebb-63c74818240d.html

Tests at two wastewater treatment plants in northern China revealed antibiotic-resistant bacteria were not only escaping purification but also breeding and spreading their dangerous cargo.

9 - Hogs vs. scenery and clean water on the Buffalo National River, Arkansas Times, 12/28/13
<http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2013/12/28/hogs-vs-scenery-and-clean-water-on-the-buffalo-national-river>

Several readers last night sent along links to a report in the New York Times today on the hog feeding operation in Newton County close by a major tributary of the Buffalo River. For environmentalists, the development of the Mount Judea (pronounced Judy) hog farm provides a stark example of what they see as lax oversight of such farms by state and federal regulators.

10 - ADEQ issues final Whirlpool pollution mitigation plan, City Wire, 12/27/13
<http://www.thecitywire.com/node/31053#.UsGBtvRDuq0>

the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality released its final Remedial Action Decision Document (RADD) for Corrective Action on Friday (Dec. 27) that requires Whirlpool to spend at least \$6 million to clean up pollution at its shuttered Fort Smith plant. ADEQ's plan also informs Whirlpool and residents affected by the company's spill of potentially cancer-causing trichloroethylene (TCE) of the final cleanup plan that has been the subject of public discussion for much of 2013.

11 - Ethanol loses friends and influence as reform movement grows, CNBC,

12/29/13

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101297359>

Ethanol requirements for U.S. gasoline appear to be losing friends and influencing the wrong people, with calls growing to reform or scrap the government mandates altogether. The Environmental Protection Agency in November proposed reducing the amount of renewable fuels, including corn-based ethanol, that oil refiners must blend with gasoline.

12 - Advocates Urge Court To Reverse EPA Approval Of Haze Trading Program, Inside EPA, 12/27/13

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201312272456784/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/advocates-urge-court-to-reverse-epa-approval-of-haze-trading-program/menu-id-202.html>

Environmentalists are urging a federal appeals court to reject EPA's approval of three states' plans to meet their regional haze reduction mandates with an emissions trading program, saying the cap-and-trade effort violates Clean Air Act requirements because it would be weaker than traditional source-specific controls to cut air pollution.